



**TOWN OF BECKET**  
**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR**  
557 Main Street, Becket, MA 01223-3252  
TOWN HALL – (413) 623-8934 Ext. 113  
FAX – (413) 623-6036

August 3, 2021

Dear Community:

This rainy summer appears to be flying by as we are already in August. Here are a few updates.

**Broadband**

The project is steadily moving forward. Customers in Fiber Service Area (FSA) 02 are being connected. In the coming weeks, customers located in FSA 01 (North Becket Village and surrounding areas) will be the next released to begin their connections. Construction is progressing in FSA 05 and FSA 09. Homeowners are connected daily and love their high-speed internet. For more information please visit [www.becketbroadband.org](http://www.becketbroadband.org).

**Roads**

As you know we have received heavy rainfalls this month, nearly four times the average for a “normal” July. After the storms and rain of the last couple weeks every town road sustained some amount of damage. The Highway Department continues to work diligently to improve all of them; however, these repairs take time.

**Transfer Station**

Due to COVID-19 and increased regulations on what the Transfer Station can and cannot collect, and increased operating expenses, opening on Thursdays is no longer a viable option. Since fiscal year 2020, Transfer Station expenses increased nearly \$40,000. MRF's (Material Recycling Facility, Springfield) new recycling contract for its member towns added a \$93 per ton processing fee. There was no fee before 2020. Recycles have plummeted in value. In order to recoup some of our increased costs, bag stickers have increased to \$2 and may be purchased online, or at the Town Hall, Transfer Station (cash is not accepted at the Transfer Station) or Sherwood Shoppe.

**Energy Committee**

After Labor Day the Energy Committee in conjunction with the Broadband Ad Hoc Group will hold an information session. The Energy Committee will present on surrounding home energy efficiency. The Broadband Ad Hoc Group will discuss the town's Broadband Project. More information to follow.

With a new Eversource incentive the Town will seek to purchase and convert its streetlights to LED lighting.

## **North Becket Park**

The park across from the Becket Washington School now houses a pavilion. This construction project was sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Committee. You are welcome to visit and check it out.

Jacob's Pillow on the Road has a free pop-up performance in the park on August 8 at 5pm. More information can be retrieved from their website, [www.jacobspillow.org](http://www.jacobspillow.org).

## **Becket Athenaeum and Becket Arts Center**

The Becket Athenaeum and Becket Arts Center continue to have several ongoing programs and events throughout the summer and into the fall. You may visit their websites for more information:

The Becket Athenaeum: <https://www.becketathenaeum.org/>

Becket Arts Center: <https://www.becketartscenter.org/>

## **COVID-19**

Cases across the nation have been increasing. At [www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov), you can see additional information regarding cases, mitigation tools, and where to receive the vaccine. Becket has been fortunate to have no active cases and we hope that continues. Town Hall is open with a recommendation to wear a mask.

The American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) and the CARES Act provided funds to the Town for COVID-related expenses. The CARES funding was used for COVID expenses. The ARPA funds, which the Town will receive more than \$500,000 over the next couple years, will mostly be used for Broadband. There are limited uses and this seemed to be the most fitting.

Please stay safe and healthy and enjoy the summer.

Sincerely,

William Caldwell  
Town Administrator